

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on December 1, 2003, and the references cited therewith. In response thereto, Applicant submits this Amendment in which claims 24-27, 45 and 51 are amended. Reconsideration of the claims and this application is respectfully solicited.

First §102 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Vandegraaf (U.S. Patent No. 4,262,264). Based upon the amendment to claim 24 and the arguments presented below, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Element 24 of the Vandegraaf patent is described as “a quadrature or 90 degree phase shift circuit” in column 4, lines 18-20. “The purpose of this phase shift circuit is to provide a quadrature relation for the signals applied to the first phase detector 20 and the second phase detector 25.” Vandegraaf at column 4, lines 20-23. However, in the Office Action dated December 1, 2003, element 24 of the Vandegraaf patent is described as “a first delay line.” Applicant respectfully submits that a quadrature phase shift circuit is not a delay line. A quadrature phase shift circuit produces a fixed signal which is shifted 90 degrees before or after a reference signal.

To expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 24 to describe the first delay line as “variable.” Applicant believes that this feature more clearly defines the difference between Applicant’s delay line the Vandegraaf phase shift circuit. This element is not found in the Vandegraaf patent. since all of the elements of the amended claims are not found in the Vandegraaf patent, Applicant believes claims 14-17, 19-23, 27-48, and 51-53 are now distinguishable over the reference and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) fails. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 24 and allowance of all claims.

Second §102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 51-53 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jefferson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,744,991). Based upon the amendment to claim 51 and the arguments presented below, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant believes claims 51-53 are now distinguishable over the Jefferson et al. patent since all of the elements of the amended claims are not found in the Jefferson et al. patent.

Reconsideration of claims 14-17, 19-23, 27-48, and 51-53 is respectfully solicited. For example, the amended independent claim 51 describes a delay locked loop where the phase difference between an input signal and a feedback signal from a first phase comparator and the phase difference between a delayed input signal and the feedback signal from a second phase comparator are used to adjust the phase of the input signal. These changes mirror the Examiner's statement for the reasons for allowance as stated in the First Office Action mailed July 11, 2003.

Applicant believes claims 51-53 are now distinguishable over the Jefferson et al. patent since all of the elements of the amended claims are not found in the Jefferson et al. patent. Reconsideration of claims 51-53 is respectfully solicited.

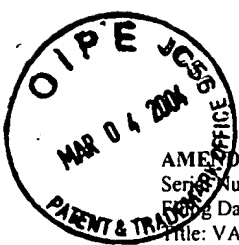
Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 25 and 26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has done this as requests reconsideration of the claims.

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 1-23 and 27-50.

Amended Claims 27 and 45

Claims 27 and 45 were amended to correct the misspelling of the word "coarse."



AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
Serial Number: 09/493630
Filing Date: January 28, 2000
Title: VARIABLE DELAY LINE

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6904 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

Mar. 1, 2004

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 1 day of March, 2004.

Name

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